The allocation and offtake of rice under APL category during the last one year month-wise have been as follows:-

Month 2008	Allocation (tons)	Offtake (tons)
April	17056	19592
May	27056	39773
June	27056	19604
July	17056	14174
August	27056	11048
September	22056	10030
October	22056	15000
November	22056	26399
December	28056	30018
January	47056	28031
February	47056	42631
March	47056	49565
TOTAL:	350672	305865

Food Bank for SAARC countries

165. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to contribute foodgrains for a Food Bank being set up to meet the emergency food demands of SAARC countries;

(b) if so, the share of each country, country-wise, proposed to be contributed for the purpose; and

(c) the process to be adopted for operationalization of the proposed Food Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has contributed 1,53,200 tons of foodgrains for SAARC Food Bank which has initial capacity of 2,43,000 tons to meet emergency food demands of members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The assured share of each SAARC member country in the SAARC Food Bank is given below:-

Name of the Member States	Assessed share of foodgrains (in tons)
Afghanistan	1420
Bangladesh	40,000
Bhutan	180
India	1,53,200
Maldives	200
Nepal	4,000
Pakistan	40,000
Sri Lanka	4,000
TOTAL:	2,43,000

(c) Based on the Colombo Statement on Food Security adopted in the Fifteenth SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on 2-3 August, 2008, SAARC Food Bank has been operationalised. In the Second meeting of the SAARC Food Bank Board held in Colombo, 12-13 February, 2009, the SAARC Food Bank Board has agreed for transacting it business in terms of drawal of food grains by Member States from their own reserves as well as from reserves of other Member States. As provided under articles VI and VIII of the Agreement on establishing the SAARC Food Bank, in case of food emergencies a member country may withdraw foodgrains from its own assessed reserve by intimating other members and from shares of other member countries by approaching them.

Allocation of PDS rice to Kerala

166. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Central Government recently for higher allocation of PDS rice to Kerala and special assistance for supporting cash crops; and

(b) if so, the details in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A request from Kerala Government has been received in June, 2009 for allocation of 1.13 lakh tons of APL rice which was the level of such allocation during 2006-07. The State Government of Kerala also requested in March, 2009 for sanction of enhanced financial assistance for replantation programme for natural rubber.

Import of edible oil

167. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's unsatiated demand for edible oils has once again set global oil market